Drug use in University Campuses in Delhi

1604. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the contents of newsitem captioned "Drug use on Campus nothing to get excited about" which appeared in The Times of India, dated the 12th September, 1001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the use of all drugs including charas are affordable and conveniently available in the campuses of DU and JNU; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ban the use of drugs by the students community all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such case of use of drgus by the students and the convenient availability of drugs, in the DU and JNU campus has been reported to any Drug Enforcement Agency, including the Delhi Police, in the year 2000-01.

(c) The Government has recently amended the NDPS Act, 1985 and a new section 32B has been added which provides for enhanced punishment for offences under the NDPS Act committed near educational institutions.

Modernisation of India Government Mint, Calcutta

1605. SHRIMATI CHANDA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether modernisation of India Government Mint, Calcutta has been completed;

(b) if so, the capacity of coin banks and output of coin at present;

(c) whether modernisation of all the nine shops had been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE-PATIL): (a) The modernisation of India Government Mint (IGM), Kolkata with respect to the production related plant and machinery, has been completed.

(b) At present IGM, Kolkata has the annual capacity to produce about 650 million pieces (mpcs) of coin blanks for various denominations. During